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ABSTRACT

This book examines the role of female gangs and the part women play in those that are predominantly male and provides an account of how these people came to accept casual killings, fire bombings, and the warfare and violence of the streets. It focuses on female gang members by setting out their stories as biographies and accounts of relationships in which they talk about the present and future in terms of events in the past, e.g., difficulties with their children today are linked with recollections of their own childhood and with the anticipation of the time ahead when they would be free from their role as a mother. The book also examines the importance of the relationships and social networks in which the individual is located, suggesting that gang members exist solely in and for the gang and use these relationships as a route for human contact. Contains an index and chapter notes. (GLR)

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